

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application, Claims 1, 3-8, 16, and 17 having been amended, and Claim 19 having been added. Support for the present amendment is believed to be self-evident from the originally filed specification. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Roschmann (U.S. Patent No. 4,746,866); and Claims 2-4, 7, 10, and 12 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on March 19, 2009. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. The Examiner clarified the grounds of rejection provided in the Office Action. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review when a response is filed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. However, these claims have been presently maintained in dependent form because Applicants consider the amended pending independent claim to patentably distinguish over the applied art.

With respect to the objection to the specification, a new Abstract is provided that better conforms with U.S. patent practice. Accordingly, this ground of objection should be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Roschmann, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 1 overcomes this ground of rejection.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “each of these transmission lines comprises a straight bar which is divided into elongated cylindrical segments, these segments being or being made electrically conducting, the bar being provided with thin solid dielectric elements disposed between the segments.” Roschmann does not disclose or suggest every feature of amended Claim 1.

Roschmann relates to a high-frequency coil system for a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus. The coil system includes transmission lines that include an external hollow conducting cylinder (1) containing an internal hollow cylinder (2) made from a dielectric material, inside of which two central conductors (3a, 3b) are placed. At least one of the two central conductors is mobile in an axial direction. An external shield (6) is coupled to the central conductors (3a, 3b) through the ends of the external cylinder, through sliding contacts.

As further shown by Roschmann’s Fig. 2, the central conductors (3a, 3b) are inside dielectric 2. Roschmann states “dielectric 2 is provided with a bore...in which two inner conductors 3a and 3b are arranged.”¹ Thus, dielectric 2 is not disposed between the segments 3a and 3b.

During the above-noted interview, the Examiner explained his position that air is in-between segments 3a and 3b, and that the air is a dielectric. However, Claim 1 is amended to indicate that the dielectric disposed between segments is a solid dielectric. Thus, any air between segments 3a and 3b of Roschmann does not equate to the claimed “the bar being provided with thin solid dielectric elements disposed between the segments.”

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Roschmann. Claim

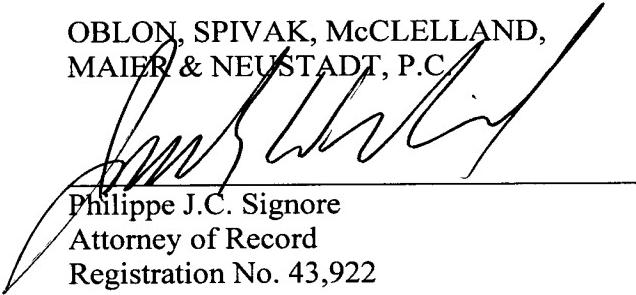
¹ Roschmann, col. 3, lines 1-3.

17 recites elements analogous to those of Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 17 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over Roschmann, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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